

Glossary of Terms

- **ABIs (Ankle Brachial Index):** measures blood pressure of ankle and compares to blood pressure at the arm. A low ABI can indicate narrowing or blockage of arteries in the leg.
- **Capillaries:** The smallest vessels in the body that connect the ends of the smallest arteries to the beginning of the smallest veins.
- **Catheter:** A flexible, hollow tube that can be inserted into a vessel through which diagnostic tools, balloons for angioplasty, medications and dye can be injected and objects can be removed from within a vessel.
- **Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT):** A blood clot which forms in a major vein producing extremity swelling and pain.
- **Doppler:** A tool used to detect blood flow in an artery or vein.
- **Duplex:** A tool used to detect blood flow in an artery or vein.
- **Edema:** swelling caused by excess fluid trapped in your body's tissues.
- **Endovascular:** Inside a blood vessel.
- **Lidocaine:** is a common anesthetic used for minor surgery.
- **Hypertension:** High blood pressure
- **Lymphedema:** swelling in extremities caused by blockage in lymphatic system.
- **Microphlebectomy:** is a minimally invasive procedure where small punctures are made in the skin over the veins, through which the problem vein is removed.
- **Non-invasive:** A term used to describe diagnostic tests that do not require needles, dyes, or the breakage of skin.
- **Reflux:** Valves in the leg veins are not working properly making it difficult for blood to return to the heart from the legs, causing the blood to "pool" or collect in the legs.
- **Occlusion:** A term used to describe a complete blockage of a vessel.
- **Saphenous vein:** superficial vein, longest vein in the body running the length of the leg.
- **Suture:** Material used to close the edges of a wound, a common term is also, stitch.
- **Symptom:** A symptom is the subjective complaints of the patient which may or may not be indicative of a particular disease.
- **Thrombus (Embolus):** A blood clot. Can occur in either a vein or an artery.

- **Ulcer:** A sore or breakdown of the skin surface, which may be due to poor blood supply.
- **Ultrasound:** A diagnostic test that uses sound waves to image tissues and organs.
- **Varicose veins:** gnarled, enlarged veins, usually in legs and feet.
- **Vein:** A vein is a blood vessel that carries back to the heart to be resupplied with oxygen.